



Southern Student Explorer



NPS COLLECTION

Thank you for joining Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) to explore the natural beauty and cultural history of CVNP. Students will have the opportunity to view, experience, and discover a landscape that has been altered by natural and human forces and evaluate how their actions influence the future of this landscape. This program is suitable for grades four through six.

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Highlights



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Ohio & Erie Canal

In 1825 Ohio saw a surge of workers digging, cutting stone, and plying timber to create the Ohio & Erie Canal. This canal opened up frontier Ohio to the established markets of the eastern states, stimulating dramatic economic growth.

Beaver Marsh

In contrast to the human-built Ohio & Erie Canal, the beaver marsh is an example of a naturally altered landscape. Thanks to the combined efforts and ingenuity of individuals and beavers, a one-time automobile salvage yard is now a beaver marsh that is home to a variety of wildlife. Students will enjoy hiking along the boardwalk and searching for fish, frogs, beavers, great blue herons, and other animals who call this marsh home.

Cuyahoga River

Seeing the Cuyahoga River offers an excellent opportunity for students to explore the interactions of humans and their environment. In 1969 the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland caught fire yet again, but this time it also caught the attention of the entire nation. The river's plight inspired the Clean Water Act of 1972 and the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The years following brought about dramatic change, greatly improving the water quality of the Cuyahoga River. Although great progress has been made cleaning up industrial pollution, other types of pollution continue to challenge the river's water quality.



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Goals



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- Students will have the opportunity to view valley landscapes and read individual landscapes for evidence of natural and human forces that shaped them.
- Students will be exposed to environmental issues in ways that will help them relate issues to their lives and be encouraged to use park management practices as a model for action in their own communities.
- Students will gain a sense of the effort involved in modifying valley landscapes.
- Students will have the opportunity to see the work of the beaver in the valley. Students will have the opportunity to discover how people have affected the Cuyahoga River and what the consequence of that interaction has meant to the nation.

Academic Content Standards

The Northern Student Explorer program addresses Ohio content standards for history.

By the end of the fourth-fifth grade program, students will be able to:

- Explain how new developments led to growth of the United States.
- Identify and explain ways people have affected the physical environment of North America and analyze the positive and negative consequences.
- Analyze ways that transportation and communication relate to patterns of settlement and economic activity.

For grade six, the Southern Student Explorer program addresses both the Ohio content standards for history (the first two) and for life science (the latter).

- Explain reasons that people, products and ideas move from place to place and the effects of that movement on geographic patterns.
- Explain how the environment influences the way people live in different places and the consequences of modifying the environment.
- Analyze behaviors and/or activities that positively or negatively influence human health.
- Analyze the impacts of human activity on the ecosystems of the earth.

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Supplemental Activities

Suggested pre-site activities are:

1. Have students go to www.nps.gov, select a National Park Service site, and learn about the resources of that site.
2. Brainstorm with the students about what kinds of wildlife they might see in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
3. Have the students make a list of ways they can positively and negatively affect a National Park Service site.

Suggested post-site activities are:

1. Have the students go to www.volunteer.gov/gov and enter their zip code. The students will be given a list of volunteer opportunities available.
2. Have the students review the list and choose the volunteer activity that best suits them.
3. Have the students write a newspaper article about the Cuyahoga River burning and what it meant to the country.
4. Have the students design a poster/pamphlet promoting volunteerism.

Want to Learn More?

Bobel, Peg and Rob. *The Nature of the Towpath*. Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council: 1998.

Eastman, John. *Swamp and Bog*. Stackpole Books: Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, 1995.

Geick, Jack. *A Photo Album of Ohio's Canal Era, 1825-1913*. Kent State University Press: Kent, Ohio, 1988.

Runte, Alfred. *National Parks: The American Experience*. University of Nebraska Press: Lincoln, Nebraska, 1979.

Vickery, Jim D. *Wilderness Visionaries*. NorthWord Press: Minocqua, Wisconsin, 1994.



Cuyahoga Valley National Park

www.nps.gov/cuva
www.dayinthevalley.com



Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

www.cvsr.com